

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A process for removing contaminants from the products of a Fischer-Tropsch synthesis reaction, said contaminants comprising (i) particulates having an effective diameter of greater than 1 micron and (ii) at least 5 ppm of aluminum in aluminum-containing contaminants having an effective diameter of less than 1 micron, said process comprising the steps of:
- (a) passing the products of the Fischer-Tropsch synthesis reaction through a first particulate removal zone capable of removing particulates having an effective diameter of greater than 1 micron;
 - (b) collecting from the first particulate removal zone a substantially particulate free Fischer-Tropsch feed stream containing 5 ppm or more of aluminum in aluminum containing-contaminants having an effective diameter of less than about 1 micron;
 - (c) contacting the substantially particulate free Fischer-Tropsch feed stream in up-flow mode with an aluminum active catalyst in a guard-bed under aluminum activating conditions, wherein the guard-bed is maintained at about 550°F or higher and wherein the LHSV in the guard-bed is about 1 or greater, whereby a feed stream mixture is formed which comprises aluminum-containing particles

having an effective diameter of more than 1 micron in a
Fischer-Tropsch hydrocarbon continuous phase;

- (d) passing the feed stream mixture through a second particulate removal zone capable of removing substantially all of the aluminum-containing particles formed in step (c); and
- (e) recovering from the second particulate removal zone a Fischer-Tropsch product containing less than about 5 ppm total aluminum.

- Claim 2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the aluminum active catalyst comprises at least one active Group VI metal and at least one active Group VIII base metal on an oxide matrix.
- Claim 3. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein the Group VI metal is selected from the group consisting of chromium, molybdenum, and tungsten.
- Claim 4. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein the Group VI base metal is selected from the group consisting of nickel and cobalt.
- Claim 5. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the temperature in the guard-bed is maintained at about 550 degrees F or higher.
- Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The process of claim ~~5~~ 1 wherein the temperature in the guard-bed is maintained at about 600 degrees F or higher.
- Claim 7. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein the temperature in the guard-bed is maintained at about 650 degrees F or higher.

- Claim 8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the LHSV in the guard-bed is about 1 or greater.
- Claim 9. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the particulates are removed in the first particulate removal zone by filtration.
- Claim 10. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the particulates are removed in the first particulate removal zone by centrifugation.
- Claim 11. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein in the second particulate removal zone the aluminum-containing particles having an effective diameter of 1 micron or greater are removed by filtration.
- Claim 12. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein in the second particulate removal zone the aluminum-containing particles having an effective diameter of 1 micron or greater are removed by centrifugation.
- Claim 13. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein in the second particulate removal zone the particulates are removed by distilling the feed stream mixture recovered in step (d) into the Fischer-Tropsch product of step (e) and a bottoms fraction which contains the aluminum-containing particulates.
- Claim 14. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the Fischer-Tropsch product recovered in step (e) contains less than about 2 ppm total aluminum.
- Claim 15. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the Fischer-Tropsch product recovered in step (e) contains less than about 1 ppm total aluminum.
- Claim 16. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the substantially particulate free Fischer-Tropsch feed stream collected in step (b) contains less than

0.1 weight percent particulates having an effective diameter of greater than 1 micron.

- Claim 17. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the Fischer-Tropsch feed stream of step (b) comprises Fischer-Tropsch wax.
- Claim 18. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the Fischer-Tropsch feed stream of step (b) comprises condensate and Fischer-Tropsch wax.
- Claim 19. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the products of the Fischer-Tropsch synthesis are produced in a slurry-type Fischer-Tropsch reactor.
- Claim 20. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the guard-bed is operated as an up-flow fixed bed.
- Claim 21. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the guard-bed is operated as an ebullating bed.
- Claim 22. (Original) A process for removing contaminants from the products of a Fischer-Tropsch synthesis reaction, said contaminants comprising
(i) particulates having an effective diameter of greater than 1 micron and
(ii) at least 5 ppm of aluminum in aluminum-containing contaminants having an effective diameter of less than 1 micron, said process comprising the steps of:
- (a) separating the Fischer-Tropsch products into a wax fraction and a condensate fraction;

- (b) passing the wax fraction through a first particulate removal zone capable of removing particulates having an effective diameter of greater than 1 micron;
- (c) collecting from the first particulate removal zone a substantially particulate free Fischer-Tropsch wax stream containing 5 ppm or more of aluminum in aluminum containing-contaminants having an effective diameter of less than about 1 micron;
- (d) contacting the substantially particulate free Fischer-Tropsch wax stream in up-flow mode with an aluminum active catalyst in the presence of hydrogen in a fixed guard-bed at a temperature of at least 600 degrees F and a LHSV of about 1.0 or higher, whereby a mixture is formed which comprises aluminum-containing particles having an effective diameter of more than 1 micron in a Fischer-Tropsch waxy hydrocarbon continuous phase;
- (e) passing the mixture through a second particulate removal zone capable of removing substantially all of the aluminum-containing particles formed in step (d); and
- (f) recovering from the second particulate removal zone a Fischer-Tropsch product containing 1 ppm or less of total aluminum.